



CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE ACTION PLAN

CUMULATIVE IMPACTS & PRECAUTIONARY APPROACHES WORK GROUP

Background

The Cumulative Impacts and Precautionary Approaches (CI/PA) Work Group is an external stakeholder group created by the California Environmental Protection Agency (Cal/EPA) for the purpose of providing early and ongoing advice on the development of guidance to assess both cumulative impacts from environmental pollutants and precautionary approaches to environmental decision-making. The Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment (OEHHA) and the California Integrated Waste Management Board (CIWMB) are leading this activity under Cal/EPA's Environmental Justice Action Plan. The purpose of the CI/PA Work Group is to bring a diversity of views to the project and to facilitate communication with external stakeholders.

The project is an effort to move toward the development of guidance on the assessment of cumulative impacts and precautionary approaches to decision-making using an open, participatory process. Stakeholder input on this effort will help Cal/EPA and its boards, departments, and office formulate policy, implement regulatory change, or identify statutory opportunities.

Establishment of the Work Group

CI/PA Work Group members have been chosen for both their expertise and their affiliation with important organizations that affect or are affected by programs of Cal/EPA. Areas of expertise include exposure assessment, risk assessment and management, environmental justice, epidemiology, public health, and/or environmental laws, regulations and programs. Work Group membership includes participants with varied backgrounds and interests who would represent the viewpoints of academia, business, industry, environment, environmental justice, and community organizations.

Expectations of the Work Group

The CI/PA Work Group is brought together to provide advice to Cal/EPA as it develops guidance on cumulative impacts assessment and precautionary approaches to decision making. Work products for which input is expected in this phase of the project include case studies around environmental decisions with relevance to cumulative impacts and precautionary approaches, possible methodological approaches to the assessment of cumulative impacts and the data that support them, and opportunities for implementation through policy, regulatory or statutory change. The work group is expected, through the expertise of its members, to enhance Cal/EPA's ultimate work products through engagement at work group meetings. Input will be primarily verbal, and in writing if appropriate, through participation in the work group meetings which will occur approximately quarterly.

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